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to ensure supply to agriculturists even in areas where licences have already been granted or are proposed to be granted on the lines of the reservation now adopted in respect of bulk supply to industrialists, railways, etc.?

*A.*—There is no such proposal under the consideration of Government. The Government are not however precluded from undertaking supply direct to any agriculturist in a licensee's area if necessity for doing so arises. It depends upon the circumstances of each case, such as, the inability or unwillingness of the licensee to give the supply, the extent of the load, the capital to be spent in connecting up the load and the revenue expected.

Mrs. A. Rukmani Lakshmipathi:—"May I know whether the Government will consider the desirability of undertaking the distribution themselves taking into consideration the fact that private licensees have not taken the initiative to canvass agricultural load?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—"That matter will be considered."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"Arising out of the answer given, viz., that 'the Government are not, however, precluded from undertaking supply direct to any agriculturist in a licensee's area if necessity for doing so arises,' may I ask under what conditions Government will come in and undertake the supply direct?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—"I think the answer given suggests the conditions. The matter 'depends upon the circumstances of each case, such as, the inability or unwillingness of the licensee to give the supply, the extent of the load, the capital to be spent in connecting up the load and the revenue expected'."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I ask whether the delays on the part of the private licensees to exploit properly agricultural load in rural areas will be included as one of the reasons for the Government interfering and giving help?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—"That would be considered, Sir."

*Progress of private licensees for electricity in North Arcot district in regard to agricultural pumping.*

* 630 *Q.*—Mrs. A. Rukmani Lakshmipathi: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the taluks of the North Arcot district for which applications have been received for licences to distribute electric power;

(*b*) which of those are agricultural and which industrial;

(*c*) the names of the applicants for licences and the area for which each has applied;

(*d*) whether such applicants hold licences already for other areas; and

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(*e*) what progress each has made and in what period in regard to agricultural pumping in the areas for which licences were already granted?

*A.*—(*a*) Walajapet, Polur and Tiruvannamalai taluks and Arni jaghir.

(*b*) All of them are agricultural but in Walajapet taluk there are some industries such as tanning.

(*c*) Messrs. Ameen Ram & Das & Co., for Tiruvannamalai and Polur taluks and Arni jaghir, and the Vellore Electric Corporation for the same area with Walajapet taluk in addition.

(*d*) Yes. One of them, the Vellore Electric Corporation, holds a licence for an area of about six miles radius around Vellore. Two other companies, some of whose managing directors are also managing directors of the two companies referred to in the answer to clause (*c*), have been granted licences for portions of Gudiyattam and Tiruppattur taluks.

(*e*) The Vellore Electric Corporation has developed an agricultural pumping load of about 30 h.p. in four years.

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"May I know whether the Government is satisfied that there is a chance of agricultural development if this matter is left to private licensees?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"It is a matter of opinion, Sir."

*Development of electricity in rural areas by private licensees.*

* 631 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any private body or person who has applied so far for electric licence for urban and rural areas in this Presidency has included in the compulsory area of his licence anything more than the laying of distribution lines for street and domestic lighting in towns and, if so, who they are; and

(*b*) whether any licensee who had been granted licence so far, had extended his distribution activities for supply to rural areas for agricultural pumping and agricultural developments; if not, what the reasons are for not doing so?

*A.*—(*a*) No.

(*b*) Messrs. The South Arcot Electricity Distribution Company, Limited, and Messrs. The East Tanjore Electric Supply Corporation are the only two licensees who have extended their distribution to a limited extent for agricultural purposes. Other licensees have presumably not taken the initiative to canvass an agricultural load or have not regarded it as sufficiently profitable.